

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ACDE-00 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01

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P 241320Z MAR 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2050

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0146

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES  
OF MARCH 22, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE MARCH 22, 1977 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN REP, UK REP AND US DEPREP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV, GDR REP OESER AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP MEISNER. MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO PARTICIPATED.

2. DURING THE SESSION, EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN REJECTED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL THAT THE NEXT STEP SHOULD BE THE SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF US AND SOVIET DATA, URGED THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TABLED SEPARATE DATA ON THEIR FORCES, AND STATED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE REDUCTION  
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PROGRAM OF EITHER SIDE. EASTERN REPS ANSWERED A QUESTION ASKED BY WESTERN REPS IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION, ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT WESTERN DATA, AND PRESENTED REASONS FOR THEIR VIEW THAT WESTERN FIGURES ON PACT FORCES COULD NOT BE ACCURATE. WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES EXPLAINED THE BASIS FOR THE WESTERN POSITION ON THE COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING WITH SUB-CEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES. THEY ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING

EASTERN DATA AND SUPPORTED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO TABLE SOVIET AND US DATA. IN REBUTTAL, EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN REJECTED THIS WESTERN PROPOSAL, CLAIMING THAT TABLING OF US AND SOVIET TOTALS ALONE WOULD NOT ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WESTERN AND EASTERN FIGURES.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK REP ATTACKED THE REFUSAL OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA TO UNDERTAKE A STAGE ONE COMMITMENT ON THE SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR STAGE TWO REDUCTIONS. HE SAID THE REFUSAL OF THESE COUNTRIES TO PRESENT DATA ON THEIR FORCES CONFIRMED THE EASTERN CONCLUSION THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD NO SERIOUS INTENTION OF REDUCING FORCES AND WERE ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT REDUCTIONS IN THE VIENNA TALKS TO US AND SOVIET FORCES. CZECHOSLOVAK REP SAID THAT EASTERN REPS WERE OF THE VIEW THAT DISCUSSION OF NUMERICAL DATA, WHICH WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF THE PARTIES ON THE MATTER OF REDUCTIONS AS A WHOLE, COULD CONTRIBUTE TO CLARIFYING THE CASUSES OF THE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA. HE SAID IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TABLING OF DATA ON THE STRENGTH OF NATIONAL ARMED FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND THE DISCUSSION THEREOF WAS NOT TO BE LINKED IN ADVANCE WITH ANY MODIFICATION IN THE POSITION OF THESE STATES ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE REDUCTION ISSUE. CZECHOSLOVAK REP ASKED FOR THE REASONS WHICH WERE PREVENTING THE WEST FROM AGREEING TO TABLE SEPARATE TOTALS ON THE FORCES OF THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

4. UK REP ADDRESSED THE WESTERN CONCEPT OF A COMMON  
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COLLECTIVE CEILING WITH SUB-CEILINGS ON US AND SOVIET FORCES AS CONFORMING TO THE REALITIES OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION PARTICIPANTS WERE DEALING WITH IN THE VIENNA TALKS AND, CONSEQUENTLY, TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF EQUITY. OWING TO THE PROXIMITY OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE WEST COULD NOT ACCEPT A POST-AGREEMENT SITUATION IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION COULD INCREASE ITS MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA NOR A SITUATION IN WHICH POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT DECREASES BY INDIVIDUAL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD RESULT IN THE LOWERING OF THE OVER-ALL LEVEL OF MILITARY MANPOWER PERMITTED THE WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

5. GDR REP ANSWERED WESTERN QUESTION FROM MARCH 15 SESSION AS TO WHETHER ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL WERE ASSIGNED TO CIVIL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES THAT THERE WERE SOME SUCH PERSONNEL, BUT THAT THEY ALL HAD BEEN COUNTED BY THE EAST IN ITS DATA. GDR REP ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERNING WESTERN DATA: (1) WHAT WERE THE COUNTING RULES USED BY THE WEST FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THOSE NATO COUNTRIES, FOR

EXAMPLE THE FRG, WHOSE FORCES ALREADY CORRESPONDED TO  
AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, AND HOW DID WESTERN COUNTRIES APPLY  
THE PRINCIPLE OF ACTUAL STRENGTH TO THE FORCES OF INDIVIDUAL  
WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES? (2) HAD THE PERSONNEL OF THE FRG  
VERFUGUNGSBEREITSCHAFT (STANDBY READINESS RESERVE) BEEN  
INCLUDED OR EXCLUDED FROM WESTERN FIGURES. (3) DID  
WESTERN FIGURES INCLUDE SOLDATEN AUF ZEIT (COMMENT: LONG-TERM  
VOLUNTEERS) IN THE FRG AND OTHER WESTERN FORCES? (4) DID  
WESTERN FIGURES INCLUDE ACTIVE DUTY FRG MILITARY  
PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE BERUFSFORDERUNGSDIENST OR  
EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT (COMMENT: VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF  
LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE THEM FOR CIVILIAN  
OCCUPATIONS); TO THE SCHUELER UMFANG OR STUDENT COMPONENT  
(COMMENT: SERVICEMEN ATTENDING TRAINING COURSES OF AT LEAST  
SIX MONTHS DURATION, INCLUDES ABOVE GROUP), AND TO THE  
SCHWUNDAUSGLEICH OR VARIABLE UMFANG (COMMENT: A SUPPLEMENTARY  
COMPONENT OF PERSONNEL INCLUDING CONSCRIPTS SEPARATE FROM  
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ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH USED TO OFFSET PERSONNEL ATTRITION AND  
TO PREVENT THE EFFECTIVE STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM  
DROPPING BELOW ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATION STRENGTH). (5) ON  
BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS TERRITORY THERE WERE MILITARY BASES AND  
DEPOTS BELONG TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AS WELL AS NATO IN  
GENERAL. PERSONNEL OPERATING THESE INSTALLATIONS WERE PROFESSIONAL  
SOLDIERS; HOWEVER, THEY WORE NO UNIFORM SINCE THEY WERE ON  
FOREIGN TERRITORY. HAD THIS MILITARY PERSONNEL BEEN INCLUDED  
IN THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF NATO FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA?  
(6) DID NATO FIGURES INCLUDE THE PERSONNEL OF THE NETHERLANDS  
WOMENS VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY CORPS?

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDE-00 ERDA-05  
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OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2051  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION NATO  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR

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FROM US REP MBFR

6. US DEPREP ANSWERED EASTERN QUESTIONS ON FRG TERRITORIAL FORCES POSED IN THE MARCH 15 SESSION AND CRITICIZED EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR UNRESPONSIVE REPLIES TO WESTERN REQUESTS THAT THE EAST GIVE THE NAMES OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE PERSONNEL IT HAD EXCLUDED FROM ITS FIGURES. HE ASKED FURTHER QUESTIONS ON EASTERN DATA.

7. TARASOV ATTACKED THE ACCURACY OF WESTERN FIGURES ON EASTERN FORCES. HE ARGUED THAT THE USE OF PERSONNEL ROSTERS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO OBTAIN PRECISION IN MANPOWER STRENGTH. SINCE THE WEST WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO HAVE ACCESS TO EASTERN ROSTERS, WESTERN DATA ON EASTERN FORCES COULD ONLY BE BASED EITHER ON TABLE OF ORGANIZATION STRENGTH OR WESTERN ESTIMATES. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS NO WONDER THAT WESTERN FIGURES WERE WRONG. TARASOV CALLED ON WESTERN REPS TO ACCEPT QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE EASTERN FIGURES ON PACT FORCES.

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8. CANADIAN REP POINTED TO WEAKNESSES IN TARASOV'S DEFENSE IN PAST INFORMALS AGAINST WESTERN CHARGES THAT POSITIONS TAKEN BY EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PAST WERE INCONSISTENT WITH PRESENT EASTERN DATA CLAIMS. HE SHOWED HOW EARLIER EASTERN EFFORTS TO SECURE WESTERN AGREEMENT TO EXCLUSION OF A LARGE NUMBER OF EASTERN MILITARY PERSONNEL ALLEGEDLY PERFORMING FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THE WEST CONTRIBUTED TO THE WESTERN CONCLUSION THAT EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAD PERCEIVED A CONSIDERABLE NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN EASTERN MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA.

9. UK REP SAID THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME AND IN THE APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS. UK REP AGAIN PROPOSED THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE ON SIMULTANEOUS TABLING OF US AND SOVIET FIGURES. IN A SITUATION WHERE BOTH SIDES WERE PREPARED TO ENTER ON A DISCUSSION OF US AND SOVIET FIGURES, IT WAS NEITHER HELPFUL

NOR PRACTICAL TO ATTACH FURTHER CONDITIONS TO THIS STEP.

10. CZECHOSLOVAK, GDR AND SOVIET REPS EACH REJECTED THIS APPROACH AND INSISTED THAT SINCE THE OVERALL TOTALS OF EACH SIDE RESULTED FROM THE ADDITION OF NATIONAL TOTALS, ONLY THE TABLING OF SEPARAE TOTALS FOR THE FORCES OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA. END SUMMARY.

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